



The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS Tel: 01992-440986

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk Web-site: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon>
FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon" Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am-4pm)
Also in residence: Fr Mathews Valiyaputhenpura Joy (Chaplain to Knanaya community)
Safeguarding parish rep: Kathryn Hall – hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YEAR B

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

31ST DECEMBER 2023

Gospel: *Luke 2: 22-40*

The child grew, filled with wisdom.

Today we remember the Holy Family. On occasions, as in today's gospel, we see them as a nuclear family, just Mary, Joseph and Jesus. On other occasions, scripture reveals a much wider family, cousins like Elizabeth and Zechariah, and those relatives who were among Jesus' eventual wider group of disciples. Most of us have a nuclear and extended family. The extended family is more evident in rural societies because people tend to be part of a more established network. I grew up on a hill farm in Breconshire. My two best friends growing up were a second and a third cousin who lived locally. In Wales, as elsewhere, before greater mechanisation, the ties of the extended family were strong, and this was reinforced by events like shearing or harvest where extra hands were needed. In Jesus' day, pilgrimage was one of the activities which drew an extended family together, which is why Mary and Joseph readily assumed that Jesus



was safely among relatives when they went up to Jerusalem for Passover when he was twelve years old. In today's gospel we have the story of Joseph and Mary taking Jesus up to Jerusalem on his first visit, not for Passover, but for his presentation. All the first born according to the law belonged to God, and should be offered to him. However, the tradition had arisen of buying back or 'redeeming' the first born from the Lord and offering a sacrifice instead. Mary offers a pair of turtledoves, a sign of poverty, as she is unable to offer the sacrifice of the wealthy. This was the occasion when first Simeon and then Anna approached the holy couple. We don't know anything about Simeon's family background, but Anna had at onetime been married. Now she was widowed. With time on her hands, she had spent much of it serving God, in her case, fasting and praying in the Temple. Taking Jesus in his arms, before Simeon blessed the couple, he blessed God for sending the one who is...'*a light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel*'. Here is a vision of a much wider family, the family of all nations. God chose a family, the people of Israel, not because they were better than any other people but simply because God chose them. They were to reveal his loving purposes to all the nations, and now Jesus, a Jew, comes as the apex of the Jewish witness. But whereas Israel had failed, Jesus the Son (Israel's glory) would take God's light to the gentiles, and accomplish and complete the Father's mission. The family of nations would hear the good news of the Saviour's birth, and, through the Church, be grafted into the chosen people of God and receive the same blessings as them. Thus, Abraham becomes the father not of one but many nations, as numerous, our second reading says, '*as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the sea*'. Christ enables us to share the faith of Abraham, which made him right in God's eyes, and access through his new covenant the benefits of the old. It is through Christ that nations and families are united. Only through his reconciling love can hatred be turned to love. But this would not come about without turmoil and upheaval. The holy family must have questioned what blessing Simeon was giving them. Mary hears that her son will be rejected, but that he will cause many to rise and fall. Her own soul would be pierced to its core as if by a sword. With what trepidation they must have left the Temple. Many families can identify with them, especially those caught in the crossfire of life. The holy family reminds us also that dysfunctionality need not be a barrier to holiness. Joseph was not Jesus' biological father, but like many fathers or mothers he faithfully provided the protection that the family needed. In his loving care, he practiced what we are all called to practice (whether as members of a natural family or members of the family of the Church), what our collect today calls..... '*the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity*'.
Fr Julian.

PRAYER & LITURGY

CRIB APPEAL: Our Crib offerings are donated to the Catholic Children's Society. The Society is helping local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Maureen Harris and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Joanne Smith, Roy Peacock, Thomas Murphy, Alfonso Caribbia, Patrick Sheridan, Antonia Orsini, Francesco Soldano, Joseph Stollenwerk, Antonietta Cacciatore, Calogero Amico, Americo Guacu, Patrick McNaughton, Mariano Palombelli, Barbara Woodbridge, James Needham, Bridie Donaghy, Rosa Cattini and Rose Beeson. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

VIGIL EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place from **11pm-11.30pm** on **New Year's Eve, Sunday 31st December** and then Mass will follow at **11.30pm**.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will not take place on **Monday 1st January** in the evening

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be held on **Friday 5th January** at **7pm**.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby Hanley will be running the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. The children choir will resume on **Sunday 4th February** at the **4pm Mass** and **11th February** at the **9.15am Mass**.

HELPERS FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 9.15am Mass are needed. **If you can help, please do contact the presbytery immediately.** Without more volunteers, children's liturgy may not be able to continue.



PRAYER GROUP will be held in the crypt on the first Thursday of each month at **7.30pm**. Next date will be on **Thursday 4th January 2024**. All are welcome!

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 21st January** at **6pm** at Hoddesdon Baptist Church on behalf of Churches Together in Hoddesdon. All are welcome.



POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY: For the gift of diversity in the church. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

PLEASE TELL US IF ANYONE IS HOUSEBOUND, EVEN TEMPORARILY, SO THEY CAN BE VISITED & HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME.

IF YOU GO IN TO HOSPITAL: If someone is sick in hospital, please let us know here at the Presbytery, and/or ask the staff on the ward, so that your loved one can be visited whilst in hospital, and receive Holy Communion and any other Sacraments from the Chaplain. Chaplains are: Lister, John O'Neill 01438-285138 or 07876-526935; Princess Alexandra, Fr Felix Adiele 01279-973183.

CATECHETICS

'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: If you are considering becoming a Catholic or are an adult Catholic wishing to be confirmed **our** next meeting will be on **Tuesday 9th January** at **7.30pm** in the crypt.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024: The next meeting will be on **Monday 8th January 2024** from **7-8pm** in the crypt.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/2024: The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **14th January**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: If your child is in year 2 and is interested in making their First Holy Communion in 2025, please contact the presbytery to register your interest as soon as possible.



BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Saturday 20th January 2024** at **11.30am** in the church. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the **13th/14th January**.

SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S



ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL: Open days for school are on: Mon 8th January @ 9:15am, Wed 10th January @ 2:00pm and Mon 15th January @9:15am - this is the last date for Reception class applications Nursery dates are: Mon 22nd January @9:15am, Mon 29th January @9:15am and Mon 5th February @9:15am. <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/sign-upform>

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S - a Registered Charity. The Under 5s is a friendly, busy and thriving early years setting. As a charity trustees are needed to help to continue to provide a valuable service for our parish and the community. If you are interested in helping and would like to find out more, please call the Under 5s on 01992 460614.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 24th January 2024** from 4.30-6pm in the presbytery.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: We are seeking to develop our ability to help those of us who have undergone bereavement. If you would like to be involved, please contact the parish office.

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB will finish on Tuesday 19th December and resume again on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**.



2023 PARISH MAGAZINE in full colour, 60 pages, is now available to buy after all Masses this weekend. You can also purchase the magazine from the presbytery during the week. To cover the cost of printing, the cost is £5.

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO: A photo presentation of the pilgrimage route (500 miles / 790 kms) will be held on **Friday 26th January at 7pm in the crypt**. This will be accompanied by wine and nibbles at a cost of £5 per head. Please contact the presbytery if you would like to attend.



CHRISTMAS CARDS: Please do not leave Christmas cards for parishioners at the back of the church. We have found from past years that they are not collected. Thank you

EPIPHANY CAROLS concert will take place on **Saturday 6th January 2024** at 7.30pm at Haileybury Chapel, in aid of Cancer Research UK's Brain Tumour research. Tickets are on a pay as you feel basis, and can be booked at tinyurl.com/Epiphany24. Seating is unreserved and your donation will have no bearing on where you sit. If you are unable to attend, but

would like to donate, please contact: cambridgechoirfundraising@gmail.com

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs>.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca, Angelo & Sophie Lenguito & Alex Thomson. Thank you for your help.

CHURCH CLEANERS are needed to help with the Wednesday and Thursday cleaning teams. This would be for one hour per month. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

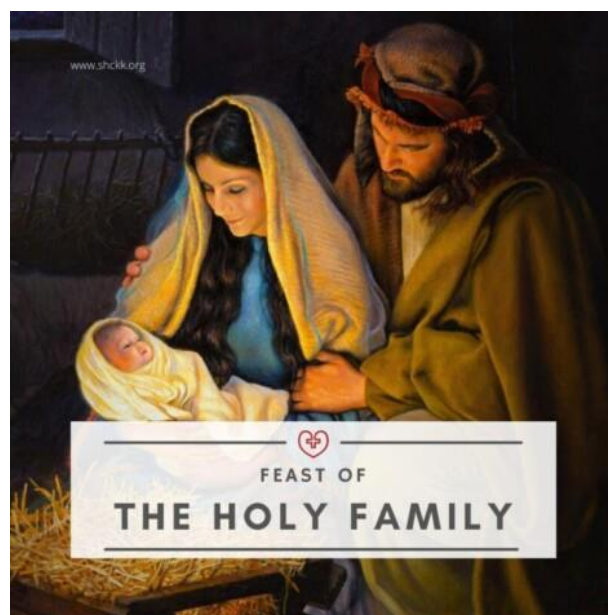


FINANCE

PARISH FINANCE: Thank you to all who continue to give regularly by standing order, or by envelopes. For those whose finances are more stable at present, please consider your parish giving, to help the parish out. Please see the link below <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon/donate/> for the details, or fill in [this form](#). For a Standing Order, here are the necessary details:

Account Name:	WRCDT Hoddesdon
Sort Code:	40-05-20
Account Number:	31264370

NO CASH? You can make your offering here by scanning the QR Code with your smartphone. Alternatively, there is a contactless device at the left-hand exit door of the church. If you are a Tax Payer, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration.



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>Sat 30th December 6TH DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Private intention</i></p>	<p>Page 105 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Genesis 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3 <i>Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Bridie Donaghy RIP</i></p>	<p>Ps 104 — He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.</p>
<p>Sun 31st Dec HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 9.15am Mass <i>Rosa Cattini RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.30pm Vigil Adoration/11.30pm Mass (New Year's Eve)</p>	<p>2nd Reading: Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19 <i>The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!</p>
<p>Mon 1st January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD. 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Jimmy McNicholas RIP</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40 <i>The child grew, filled with wisdom.</i></p>
<p>Tues 2nd January Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>John Feeney RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (YEAR B)</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12</p>
<p>Wed 3rd January The Most Holy Name of Jesus 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Mark Wipperman RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.</p>
<p>Thurs 4th January 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Kathleen Fitzpatrick RIP</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>Friday 5th January (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament /11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Patrick Griffin's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass <i>Baby William & Kevin O'Bryan RIP</i></p>	<p>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p>
<p>Sat 6th January 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Maria Cuffaro RIP anniv</i></p>	<p>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p>Sun 7th January EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Marion Miller RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Isabella Abrahams RIP</i></p>	<p>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
<p>* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	
REGULAR EVENTS	

NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO PRESBYTERY IN WRITING, BY FAX, OR E-MAIL BY 9AM THURS WITH YOUR NAME & PHONE NO.
— NEW PARISHIONERS Please take a parish membership form & information leaflet from the box in the porch. The completed forms should be posted through the presbytery letterbox. **MOVING HOME?** Please post new details through the presbytery letterbox. **PARROCCHIANI:** *Si pregano tutti i parrocchiani di prendere i questionari (uno per ciascun famiglia) che si trovano vicino al tabellone degli avvisi. Una volta compilati, i questionari devono essere riconsegnati depositandoli nella cassetta della posta vicina alla statua di Sant'Antonio*